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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
IRAQI AGGRESSION AND THE CONTINUED OCCUPATION OF KUWAIT IN FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 3 January 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the appeal addressed by Mr. Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, to Saddam Hussein, President of Iraq, concerning withdrawal from Kuwait.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex distributed as an official document of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35 and 153, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Amre MOUSSA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Text of the appeal addressed by President Hosni Mubarak to Saddam Hussein, President of Iraq

The sons of the Arab nation and the sons of the Muslim peoples who are currently following the situation with great anxiety and profound distress know that I have already addressed more than one appeal to Iraq's President Saddam Hussein and that I have dispatched more than one special emissary to him. I have also sent him other letters through the Iraqi Embassy in Cairo, and through all these contacts I have told him, in all sincerity, what we must undertake to do concerning the issues which affect the common destiny of the Arabs and the appalling tragedy which may overtake the region if the current situation continues to deteriorate.

I have already entreated President Saddam in all my appeals and letters, on behalf of every man, woman and child living on Arab soil, to take the decision required by international law and dictated by concern for Arab interests and by the human conscience all over the world. However, my repeated appeals have so far received no response that gives me reason to hope for the peace which I, like all men the world over, desire.

The many other appeals in the same spirit which the Iraqi President has received from numerous capital cities have met with the same fate.

Iraq's response has always been the same, even down to the words used, namely that it would not withdraw from occupied Kuwait and was preparing to risk everything by pursuing the annexation of Kuwait as an Iraqi province, regardless of the risks and consequences.

Despite all this, I am addressing this latest appeal to President Saddam Hussein on the occasion of the Christian New Year - and God knows I am launching this appeal with the utmost sincerity. I am asking him to adjust his actions to international realities and Arab realities by assuming his historic responsibility, something of which I believe him capable.

I fear that we are drawing near to an implacable inferno and terrible days, and President Saddam Hussein knows better than anyone that there is no place there for provocative statements or contests in eloquence, for the moment will inevitably come when men will be broken by sorrow, cities will crumble and the earth will be strewn with broken, blood-bathed corpses, horrors caused by weapons of mass destruction which will inflict untold material damage on the Arab peoples and on the people of Iraq first and foremost.

I say this in perfect awareness of the gravity of the situation, as President of an Arab State which is proud of Iraq and its people and as a man with considerable experience of war and its horrors.

Everyone prays for peace and everyone shares the same views on our Arab soil and in our Muslim world. Internationally, people want peace and one opportunity after another is being offered to implement the international resolution concerning withdrawal and respect for international law and thus to avoid the risks of destruction, devastation and annihilation.

And when you find people who might support your position, President Saddam, they reject the occupation and annexation of Kuwait by Iraq and they too hope for peace and are seeking to achieve it.

Let us not talk about those who are pushing for a bloody confrontation, for the forces involved would not be balanced by any standard. These people unfortunately do not know the truth of things or they use slogans which have alienated us from the truth and made us lose precious time and also our senses.

I repeat to you one more time that to decide to withdraw Iraqi forces from Kuwaiti territory after all that has happened would be a courageous decision, for to be courageous is to take the difficult decision, putting everyone's interests above one's own and respecting the lives of millions of people and their right to live in their own home, with their families and in peace.

To be courageous is to sacrifice one's own interests in deciding whether mankind shall live or die.

That is the power of leaders whose people have invested them with supreme responsibility.

History, ancient or recent, teaches us that the leaders and rulers who have been treated with respect in the history books are those who rose above short-term considerations and were able, by not feeling themselves captives of earlier decisions, to make choices dictated by a sense of responsibility and rectitude.

Men of truth do not fear the truth.

For these reasons, we urge you to make a personal sacrifice, no matter how you see things, for without this small sacrifice you will be sacrificing the lives of hundreds of thousands of men, women and children, you will be sacrificing these people, their present and their future, their families and their homes, not to mention the total destruction of centres of production which neither years of effort nor all the billions in the world will be able to replace.

My Arab brother,

This is not a contest in eloquence, for at this moment the engines of war and weapons of destruction are being readied.

This is not an intellectual game that might temporarily postpone inevitable events, for the war plans are being studied and prepared at all levels.

We cannot wait for international unity to break or disagreements to arise. The destiny of our Arab land - war or peace - is written now in a resolution of the international community which is irrevocable, as can be seen from the clear and repeated statements of all those who adopted that resolution.

I should like to repeat to you most emphatically that the situation is more dangerous than you think.

The choice of peace depends mainly on you.

If you take this decision, you will be simply a courageous Arab citizen responding to the expectations of his community.

Our community has suffered so much from slogans and ovations!

Our community has suffered so much from ditches which we dig for ourselves and which make us waste time, delaying our progress!

The world is now demanding peace and marching towards peace.

Our Arab community will be no different from this new world which believes in man and in his right to life; we do not want to be threatened with destruction and annihilation.

The choice of peace depends mainly on you.

If you take this decision, you will be an Arab man following the way of truth and not succumbing to error. We shall be together with you when you take this courageous decision and the resulting benefits will be credited to you.

I pray God to guide us on the way of truth, light and peace.